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BURNING FRIGATE PHILADELPHIA AT TRIPOLI.

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**LETTER**

FROM

**THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,**

Transmitting, pursuant to a Resolution of the House of Representatives,

THE NAMES OF THE OFFICERS AND SEAMEN

ON BOARD THE

**KETCH INTREPID,**

IN THE

**ATTACK ON THE FRIGATE PHILADELPHIA,**

IN THE YEAR 1804,

**IN THE HARBOR OF TRIPOLI.**

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DECEMBER 8, 1826.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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WASHINGTON :

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1826.



## NAVY DEPARTMENT,

*December 6, 1826.*

In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 20th of May last, "That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to report, during the first week of the next session of Congress, the number and names of the Officers and Seamen who were on board the Ketch Intrepid, on the sixteenth of February, one thousand eight hundred and six, [1804] in the attack made on the Frigate Philadelphia, and now surviving, so far as the same can be ascertained in his Department; and that he, at the same time, report the number and names of the widows of such of said Officers and Seamen as have deceased; and that he state what proportion of the Officers and Seamen on board of the Navy, are married, so far as the same may be practicable," the Secretary of the Navy has the honor to report: That there were on board the Ketch Intrepid, on the 16th of February, 1804, (that being the year in which the attack on the Frigate Philadelphia was made):

- 14 Commissioned and warrant officers,
- 12 Petty officers,
- 28 Able seamen,
- 8 Ordinary seamen, and
- 8 Marines: the names of all of whom will be found in paper marked A.

The remarks in the third column of this paper are not on the original, on file, but are added by the Fourth Auditor, from information furnished by his office. It is also proper to state that the name of Salvador Catalano does not appear in this list. He was a Sicilian, specially employed as a Pilot for this service, and, having satisfactorily performed his duty, has been since retained in the public employment, and is now acting as Sailing Master at the Navy Yard in this City.

Paper B contains the names of those officers who now survive, as far as the facts are known.

Paper C contains the names of those who have died, together with such information as the Department has been able to procure, respecting the names of the widows of such as were married, and the number of children left by each.

Of the seamen and marines on board the Intrepid at the time, the records of this Department furnish no other information than is contained in paper A. They were selected from the different ships composing the squadron in the Mediterranean, and, on their return from Tripoli, were restored to their respective stations in those ships, and have since, doubtless, been scattered in every direction. The surviving officers, who then commanded them, can give no satisfactory accounts

of their lives or deaths. As they were a select crew in the vigor of life, at that period, now twenty-two years ago, it is probable that very few, if any, are living. Should Congress make an appropriation for their benefit, the Agent appointed to attend to its distribution will be able to discover them, by means of advertisements explaining his object, if indeed any of them are still living.

In the paper D will be found so much of the correspondence of the Department, in relation to this subject, as is supposed necessary to show the nature of the information on which the facts are stated.

Respectfully submitted,

SAM'L L. SOUTHARD.

The SPEAKER

*of the House of Representatives.*

A.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Fourth Auditor's Office, 29th May, 1826.*

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 26th instant, enclosing a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed on the 20th of this month, I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of the original list of the Officers, Seamen, and Marines, who volunteered on board the Ketch Intrepid, for the destruction of the Frigate Philadelphia, in the harbor of Tripoli. I have inserted, in the column of "remarks," the only additional information called for by the resolution, that is in the possession of this office.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Sir, your obedient servant,

T. WATKINS.

Hon. SECRETARY *of the Navy.*

*List of Officers and Seamen, who volunteered their services for the destruction of the Frigate Philadelphia.*

NAMES.	STATIONS.	REMARKS.
Stephen Decatur, jun.	Commander	Dead: left a widow.
James Lawrence,	Lieutenant	Dead: left a widow & child.
Joseph Bainbridge,	do.	Dead: left a child.
Jonathan Thorn,	do.	Dead.
Lewis Heermann,	Surgeon	At New Orleans.
Thos. Macdonough,	Midshipman	Dead: left children.
John Rowe,	do.	
Ralph Izard,	do.	
Alexander Laws,	do.	
Charles Morris,	do.	Now Navy Commissioner.
John Davis,	do.	
Thomas O. Anderson,	do.	
William Wiley,	Boatswain	
William Hook,	Gunner	
George Crawford,	Quartermaster	
George Brown,	do.	
John Newman,	do.	
Paul Frazier,	do.	
James Metcalf,	Boat's Mate	
Nicholas Brown,	do.	
Edward Burk,	Seaman	
Edward Kellen,	Master's Mate	
Samuel Endicott,	Quart'r Gunner	
James Wilson,	do.	
John Ford,	do.	
Richard Doyles,	do.	
Peter Munell,	Seaman	
Richard Ormond,	do.	
Samuel Jackson,	do.	
James Pasgrove,	do.	
Joseph Goodwin,	do.	
John Boyles,	do.	
Augustus C. Fleur,	do.	
Charles Berryman,	do.	
Daniel Frazier,	do.	
William Graham,	do.	
Reuben James,	do.	
Robert Love,	do.	
John Williams,	do.	
Joseph Fairfield,	do.	
George Fudge,	do.	



## LIST—Continued.

NAMES.	STATIONS.	REMARKS.
James Robinson,	Seaman	
Matthew Yeates,	do.	
William Ducket,	do.	
Andrew Espey,	do.	
William Tumbo,	do.	
Thomas James,	do.	
Joseph Numond,	do.	
George Murray,	do.	
Robert M. Knight,	do.	
William Dixon,	do.	
Henry Davenport,	do.	
Joseph Parker,	do.	
Joseph Boyd	Ship's Steward	
Dennis O'Brian,	Ord'y Seaman	
Jacob Kurgan,	do.	
John Burtson,	do.	
William Rodgers,	do.	
Charles Robinson,	do.	
William Trippet,	do.	
John Joseph,	do.	
Michael Williams,	do.	
<i>Marines.</i>		
Solomon Wren,	Sergeant	
Duncan Mansfield,	Corporal	
Noble James,	Private	
John Quin,	do.	
Isaac Camfield,	do.	
Reuben O'Brian,	do.	
William Pepper,	do.	
John Wolsfrandorf	do.	

The within and foregoing is a correct list of the Officers, Seamen, &c. that assisted in destroying the Frigate Philadelphia, in the harbor of Tripoli.

STEPHEN DECATUR, Jun.

**B.**

*List of Officers on board the Ketch Intrepid, on the 16th February, 1804, in the attack on the frigate Philadelphia, in the harbor of Tripoli, who are living in December, 1826.*

Lewis Heermann, Surgeon,  
Charles Morris, Midshipman, } All married.  
Thomas O. Anderson.

**C.**

*List of Officers on board the Ketch Intrepid, on the 16th February, 1804, in the attack on the Frigate Philadelphia, in the harbor of Tripoli, who have since died; with the names of the widows of such as were married, and the number of children left by each.*

Name of Officer.	Rank.	Name of Widow.	Number of Children.
Stephen Decatur, jr.	Lt. Com'g	Susan Decatur	None.
James Lawrence	Lieut.	Julia M. Lawrence	One daughter.
Joseph Bainbridge	Lieut.	None - -	One daughter.
Jonathan Thorn	Lieut.	Never married -	
Thomas Macdonough	Mid'n	None - -	Five (4 sons & 1 daughter.)
Ralph Izard*	- Mid'n	Widow alive; name not known	Four (1 son & 3 daughters.)
John Rowe	- Mid'n	Not married, and believed to be dead	
Alexander Laws	- Mid'n	Not known -	None.

\* R. Izard was rated as Master's Mate on board the frigate Constitution.

**D.**

NAVY DEPARTMENT, 26th May, 1826.

SIR: You will be pleased to furnish a copy of the original list of officers and men on board the ketch Intrepid, at the burning of the frigate Philadelphia.

I have also to request any other information in your office which will enable me to answer the resolution of the House of Representatives, copy of which is enclosed.

I am, respectfully, &c.

SAML. L. SOUTHARD.

TOBIAS WATKINS, Esq.

*Fourth Auditor of the Treasury.*

NAVY DEPARTMENT, 26th May, 1826.

SIR: I enclose a copy of a resolution of the House of Representatives, directing the Secretary of the Navy to furnish certain information respecting the officers and men who were on board the ketch Intrepid at the destruction of the frigate Philadelphia.

Your participation in that brilliant achievement, and consequent acquaintance with the persons who were engaged in it, may enable you to communicate facts not within the knowledge of the Department; and I therefore have to request the favor of you to furnish any information that may be useful in preparing an answer to the resolution.

I am, respectfully, &c.

SAML. L. SOUTHARD.

CHARLES MORRIS, Esq.

*Commissioner of the Navy.*

THOMAS O. ANDERSON, Esq.

*Newtown, N. J.*

DR. LEWIS HEERMANN,

*Surgeon U. S. Navy, N. Orleans.*

NAVY DEPARTMENT, 30th May, 1826.

SIR: By a resolution of Congress, passed during the recent session, I am directed to communicate all the information I can obtain respecting the families of those persons who were on board the ketch Intrepid at the destruction of the frigate Philadelphia.

Among the officers engaged in that brilliant achievement was Ralph Izard, a native of South Carolina, who served as a midshipman. I have to request that you will endeavor to ascertain from his relatives, or any one else, the name of his widow, and the names and number of his children, should any of them still survive.

I am, respectfully, &c.

SAML. L. SOUTHARD.

Capt. JOHN D. HENLEY,

*Commanding Naval Officer,*

*Charleston, S. C.*



NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 30, 1826.*

SIR : Being called upon by a resolution of Congress, to communicate, at the next session, certain information respecting the families of those persons who were on board the Ketch Intrepid at the destruction of the frigate Philadelphia, I have to request the favor of you to state the number and names of the orphan children of the late Com. Thomas McDonough, who was a Midshipman in that expedition.

I am, very respectfully, &c.

SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD.

Rev. EDWARD RUTLEDGE,  
*Middletown, Connecticut.*

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WASHINGTON, *May 29, 1826.*

SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, covering a resolution of the House of Representatives, requesting certain information relatively to the persons who were on board the Ketch Intrepid, at the destruction of the frigate Philadelphia.

A list of the names of the officers and others, engaged in that enterprise, is on file in the office of the Fourth Auditor.

What number of the seamen and marines are alive at this time, I have no means of ascertaining ; but presume there are but few, some years having elapsed since I met with any of them ; nor can I communicate any information of the names or number of their widows.

The Commander, then Lieutenant Decatur, and the Lieutenants Lawrence, Bainbridge, and Thorn, are all dead. The Surgeon Doctor Heerman is still living. Of the Midshipmen, Izard, McDonough, and Davis, are deceased. I believe Rowe to be dead, and Laws to be living, but am not certain. Anderson and myself still survive. The pilot is also still living.

Commodore Decatur left a widow ; Capt. Lawrence, a widow and one daughter ; Captain Bainbridge, an orphan daughter ; Captain McDonough left several orphan children, and Lieutenant Izard, a widow, and several children by a former wife.

With much respect, I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. MORRIS.

Hon. SAM. L. SOUTHARD,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

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CHARLESTON, S. C. *June 13th, 1826.*

SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date of the 30th ultimo. In reply I have to say, that I have

Sturtevant, (Cox), Jan 12, 1882.

Sir: In compliance with your request, I transmit you the names of the children of the late Captain Thomas Macdonough.

- |                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 3. Edward F. Macdonough,      | aged 19 years, |
| Clinton Shaler Macdonough,    | 8              |
| Augustus Hobart Macdonough,   | 6              |
| Thomas Macdonough,            | 4              |
| Charlotte Rosalie Macdonough, | 1              |

Any further information necessary, I shall be happy to furnish.

With very great respect I remain, your obedient servant,

HOWARD BUTLERIDGE,

Legal Guardian to said Orphans.

Hon. State L. Governor,  
Secretary of the Navy.